

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1 1. (Twice Amended) A microwave communication network that overlays a public  
2 switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising:  
3 a plurality of microwave transceivers forming a microwave network which  
4 overlays said public switched telephone network, said transceivers being geographically  
5 located so as to provide a wireless interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of  
6 traffic normally carried by said [the] PSTN between two or more central offices, tandem  
7 switches or other premises controlled by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC),  
8 said wireless IOF being capable of providing an alternative communication path when  
9 said ILEC provides insufficient wireline bandwidth between two or more of said central  
10 offices, tandem switches or other premises.

1 2. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein one or  
2 more of said microwave transceivers is located proximate to one or more of said central  
3 offices, tandem switches or other premises.

1 3. Cancelled

1 4. Cancelled

1 5. Cancelled

1     6.     Cancelled

1     7.     (Twice Amended) A method of providing wireless bandwidth in a microwave  
2     network which overlays a public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising the  
3     steps of:  
4           (1) forming a microwave network from a plurality of microwave transceivers, said  
5     microwave network overlaying said public switched telephone network;  
6           (2) geographically arranging said transceivers so as to provide wireless  
7     interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic normally carried by said [the]  
8     PSTN between two or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled  
9     by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), said wireless IOF being capable of  
10    providing an alternative communication path when said ILEC provides insufficient  
11    wireline bandwidth between two or more of said central offices, tandem switches or other  
12    premises, said wireless IOF being capable of providing an alternative communication  
13    path when said ILEC provides insufficient wireline bandwidth between two or more of  
14    said central offices, tandem switches or other premises.

1     8.     (Twice Amended) A microwave communication network that overlays a public  
2     switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising:

3 a plurality of microwave transceivers forming a microwave network which  
4 overlays said public switched telephone network, said transceivers being geographically  
5 located so as to provide a wireless interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of  
6 traffic normally carried by said [the] PSTN between one or more central offices, tandem  
7 switches or other premises controlled by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) and  
8 one or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled by a common  
9 carrier other than said ILEC, said wireless IOF being capable of providing an alternative  
10 communication path when said ILEC provides insufficient wireline bandwidth between  
11 two or more of said central offices, tandem switches or other premises, said wireless IOF  
12 being capable of providing an alternative communication path when said ILEC provides  
13 insufficient wireline bandwidth between two or more of said central offices, tandem  
14 switches or other premises.

1 9. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein one or  
2 more of said microwave transceivers is located proximate to one or more of said central  
3 offices, tandem switches or other premises.

1 10. Cancelled

1 11. Cancelled

1 12. Cancelled

1 13. Cancelled

1 14. (Twice Amended) A method of providing wireless bandwidth in a microwave  
2 network which overlays a public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising the  
3 steps of:

4 (1) forming a microwave network from a plurality of microwave transceivers,  
5 said microwave network overlaying said PSTN [public switched telephone network];

6 (2) geographically arranging said transceivers so as to provide wireless  
7 interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic normally carried by said [the]  
8 PSTN between one or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled  
9 by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) and one or more central offices, tandem  
10 switches or other premises controlled by a common carrier other than said ILEC, said  
11 wireless IOF being capable of providing an alternative communication path when said  
12 ILEC provides insufficient wireline bandwidth between two or more of said central  
13 offices, tandem switches or other premises.

1 15. (New) A microwave communication network that overlays a public switched  
2 telephone network (PSTN) comprising:

3 a plurality of microwave transceivers forming a microwave network which  
4 overlays said PSTN, said transceivers being geographically located so as to provide a  
5 wireless interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic normally carried by said

6 PSTN between two or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled  
7 by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), said wireless IOF being capable of  
8 providing redundancy with respect to a failure of said wireline portion of said PSTN.

1 16. (New) A microwave communication network that overlays a public switched  
2 telephone network (PSTN) comprising:  
3 a plurality of microwave transceivers forming a microwave network which  
4 overlays said PSTN, said transceivers being geographically located so as to provide a  
5 wireless interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic normally carried by said  
6 PSTN between two or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled  
7 by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), said wireless IOF being capable of  
8 providing wireless bandwidth more cost effectively than wireline bandwidth offered by  
9 said ILEC.

1 17. (New) A microwave communication network that overlays a public switched  
2 telephone network (PSTN) comprising:  
3 a plurality of microwave transceivers forming a microwave network which  
4 overlays said PSTN, said transceivers being geographically located so as to provide a  
5 wireless interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic normally carried by said  
6 PSTN between two or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled  
7 by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), said wireless IOF being capable of

- 8 providing service which is complementary to service provided by said wireline portion of
- 9 said PSTN.